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July 24, 2018

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The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 18-214
GN Docket No. 12-268

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to request assistance with an issue affecting my constituents in Mohave County, Arizona. The issue concerns reimbursement for expenses the County will incur for microwave relay stations needed to preserve the television service provided by the County's television translators.

Mohave County is one of the largest and most sparsely-populated in the United States. In size it is similar to all of the New England states put together, yet the population is only about 200,000. Because there is only one television station serving this very large area, the Board of Supervisors decided years ago to establish a network of TV translators which could provide free, over-the-air television from distant stations in Phoenix and Las Vegas. Many County residents, especially retirees on fixed incomes, rely on this system for their only source of television and emergency alert information.

With the continued reallocation of UHF television spectrum to communications carriers, the channels available to the County for displacement have been greatly reduced, to the point where at some of its translator stations, there is a risk of mutual interference. In order to avoid the interference, and maintain the existing television service as the County changes channels, it is necessary that the County make use of microwave relay stations.

In March, the Reimbursement Expansion Act ("REA") was enacted. The REA provides for reimbursement of "costs reasonably incurred by a television translator station or low power television station on or after January 1, 2017, in order for such station to relocate its television service from one channel to another channel or otherwise modify its facility as a result of the reorganization of broadcast television spectrum." 47 U.S.C Section 1452(k)(1).

The Commission has issued a draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (DOC-352541) which looks toward the adoption of rules for implementation of the REA; that Notice is to be finalized at the meeting on August 2. Unfortunately, the draft Notice fails to contain any mention of reimbursement for microwave relays used by the County and other rural translator licensees.

I strongly urge the Commission to correct this omission. Failure to provide reimbursement for microwave relay stations defeats the purpose of the legislation which is to ensure that translator licensees can "relocate [their] television service" to other channels: Absent microwave relays, my constituents will suffer disruption in their television service -- not its preservation as contemplated by the REA. Certainly, this issue deserves to be included in the Notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.", with a large, stylized initial "P" and "G".

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Cc: Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Marlene S. Dortch, Secretary



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Paul Gosar
U.S. House of Representatives
2057 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gosar:

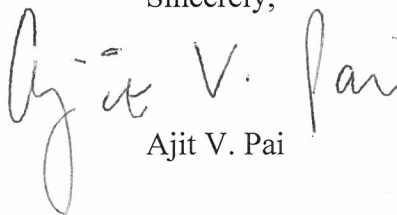
Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's recent action to commence a rulemaking regarding the reimbursement of relocation costs for certain TV translator stations due to the broadcast spectrum incentive auction. I understand the important service that TV translator stations provide to rural areas in the United States, including Mohave County, Arizona.

In the rulemaking, the Commission proposes to reimburse low power TV and TV translator stations in a way that is substantially similar to the process we are using to reimburse full power and Class A licensees. The Commission has also tentatively concluded that "reasonably incurred" costs would include the equipment and other costs necessary for an eligible station to construct a new facility on a newly-granted displacement channel. And as with the full power and Class A reimbursement process, reimbursement costs are limited to replacing existing equipment and features needed as a result of the relocation process. The Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau have compiled a cost catalog for use by these new reimbursement-eligible licensees and is currently seeking comment on the types of equipment and costs proposed therein.

I understand that Mohave County has already filed comments in our rulemaking proceeding and we have made their comments a part of the record. I encourage Mohave County to also submit comments on the Commission's proposals in the cost catalog. A fulsome record is the best way for the Commission to make the appropriate decisions to implement the Reimbursement Expansion Act.

Your views are important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai